Impact of price hike of rice, wheat, sugar and LPG upon the weaker sections

653. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have caused any survey about the possible impact of the recent increases in the prices of items under the Public Distribution system, such as rice, wheat, sugar and LPG on an average family especially those on the weaker sections;

(b) if so, what were the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise

Consumer Welfare Fund

654. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the parliamentary Committee on Civil Supplies has expressed distress at the fact that the consumer welfare fund has not become operational as yet;

(b) if so, what were the precise reasons for delay in establishing the fund and making it operational; and

(c) what steps have since been taken to implement the recommendations of the committee in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) The Standing Parliamentary Committee on Civil Supplies and Public Distribution, in its third report, has expressed concern that the Consumer Welfare Fund has not been made operational. The Fund could not be made operational earlier as the Consumer Welfare Fund Rules, 1992 were being amended by Ministry of Finance for making them more broad based. The amended Rules have since been notified and the Consumer Welfare Fund has become operational.

Marked Prices on packed consumer goods

655. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL:
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article in the Times of India of 11th February, 1994 conveying that marked prices on the packed goods is proving costlier for the consumers, and these prices leave a very high margin of profit for the dealers; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to ensure that manufacturers mark reasonable prices on the Packed goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN